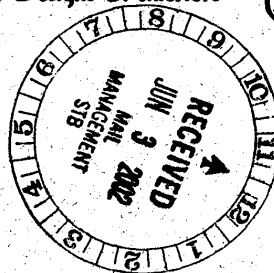




205325

May 23, 2002



Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 392X)

Gentlemen:

The March 21, 2002 Federal Register included a notice of exemption from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company for the rail line from Kalispell to Ball's Crossing south of Kalispell. I was extremely please to learn there were no protests to the notice and the exemption became effective on April 20.

Although this rail line once provided service to several shippers, these shippers are no longer active and BNSF has not used the line for many years. The line is now of much greater importance as part of the route of the long-planned US 93 Kalispell Truck Bypass. The City of Kalispell, therefore, supports the request by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for a public use condition that will provide the time necessary for MDT and BNSF to negotiate the purchase of the right-of-way for use as part of the bypass.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I look forward to following the progress of this important process.

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

JUN 03 2002

Part of
Public Record

Sincerely,

Judy Pettersen,
Owner

Copy: David A. Galt, Director, Montana Department of Transportation
Patrick Keim, BNSF
Jerry Johnson, BNSF

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